[*Translation*]

Rural Satellite Phone

693. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of installation of Rural Satellite Phone has been started in the country;

(b) if so, the places where these have been installed till date and the criteria laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide the said facility in the rural areas of Balsad district, Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) The work of installation of Satellite based Rural Telephone service is yet to start in the country. However, there is a plan to start this service sometimes next year depending upon technical feasibility.

[*English*]

Payment of Arrears to Pensioners

694. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether serving civilian employees in the armed forces headquarters have been made payments on the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission but no such arrears have been paid to the pensioners yet who retired from service on or after January 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the arrears are likely to be paid to the pensioners;

(c) whether pension and other related payments like gratuity, commutation, leave encashment etc. have not so far been revised in respect of the employees who retired from service on or after January 1, 1996; and

(d) the time by which the pension is to be revised and arrears of commutation, leave encashment, gratuity etc. whould be paid?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Provisional payments in revised pay scales including arrears have been made to civilian employees serving in Armed Forces Headquarters. Payments in respect of pensioners who retired from service on or after 1st January, 1996 have been made only in respect of a few pensioners who have completed the required formalities.

(b) Arrears to the pensioners are to be paid after they complete the prescribed procedural formalities. As such, no definite time frame can be indicated for completion of the job.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No specific time frame can be indicated for completing the process of revision of pension as it depends on the pensioners completing the required formalities.

Approval to New Courses

695. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Council for Technical Education has decided as a matter of policy not to accord approval to any more new courses of Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is based on the recommendations of its All India Board of Management Studies and its Executive Committee.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Yatri Niwas

696. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Gujarat for the construction of Yatri Niwas in the States;

(b) the funds allocated to the State during 1997-98; and

(c) the present locations of Yatri Niwas in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The Department of Tourism have received one proposal for construction of Yatri Niwas at DAKOR in Gujarat.

(b) Department of Tourism do not earmark or allocate fund for assistance to different states. However assistance is provided on the basis of specific proposals received from the State/UTs as per giudelines and merits of each case. Rs. 148 lakhs was sanctioned for 7 projects during 1997-98 for the State of Gujarat.

(c) The Yatri Niwas at DAKOR has been sanctioned during 1985-86.

Non Functioning of Public Telephone Booths

697. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coin operated public telephone booths in Delhi and other metropolitan cities generally remain out of order;

(b) whether the travellers and other people have to face a lot of problems due to non-functioning of such